

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SENATORS COMMENTS ON TRADE/EMIGRATION

ATTENTION: MR. SONNENFELDT AND MR. GARRISON

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF JULY 10 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE:

SENATORS TIE SOVIET CREDITS TO EMIGRATION ISSUE, DETENTE
(HEADLINE)

THREE SENIOR SENATORS JUST BACK FROM RUSSIA INSISTED YES-
TERDAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION MUST QUOTE LOOSEN UP UNQUOTE
ON EMIGRATION OF JEWS AND TAKE OTHER STEPS TOWARD DETENTE
BEFORE CONGRESS WILL SOFTEN RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE CREDITS
WITH THE USSR.

SENS. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY (D-MINN.) AND HUGH SCOTT (R-PA.)

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AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, AND JACOB K. JAVITS (R-N.Y.)

IN AN INTERVIEW, ALL SAID THAT AN EASING OF CREDIT RESTRICTIONS IS TIED TO PROGRESS ON THE EMIGRATION ISSUE AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

SCOTT SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH HIM SHORTLY, ALONG WITH HUMPHREY, JAVITS AND ABRAHAM A. RIBICOFF (D-CONN.), ON THE JEWISH EMIGRATION PROBLEM. QUOTE WE THINK THERE HAS TO BE SOME MOVEMENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE, UNQUOTE SCOTT SAID.

HUMPHREY SAID, QUOTE THE CHANCE OF ANY CHANGE OF LAW DEPENDS ON THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOVIETS, IN WHATEVER FORM THEY DO IT, TO LOOSEN UP ON SOVIET JEWS. UNQUOTE.

JAVITS SAID A CHANGE IN RESTRICTIVE LAWS IS POSSIBLE QUOTE ONLY IF IT WILL MATERIALLY IMPROVE THE PROSPECT OF DETENTE, WHICH INCLUDES EMIGRATION, MIDEAST PROBLEMS, ARMS CONTROL AND EUROPEAN UNQUOTE PROBLEMS.

THE POSITION TAKEN BY HUMPHREY, SCOTT AND JAVITS APPEARED TO INDICATE A RIFT WITH RIBICOFF, A FOURTH MEMBER OF THE 14-SENATOR DELEGATION THAT VISITED MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PARTY CHIEF LEONID I. BREZHNEV, OVER THE INDEPENDENCE DAY RECESS.

RIBICOFF RETURNED FROM THE TRIP SAYING HE IS QUOTE IN FAVOR OF LIFTING UNQUOTE ONE CONGRESSIONAL LAW, WHICH LIMITS LOW-INTEREST CREDITS TO THE SOVIETS TO 300 MILLION DOLS., AND PERHAPS OF REVISING ANOTHER LAW WHICH MAKES A CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF EMIGRATION PERMITS FOR JEWS A CONDITION OF SUCH CREDITS.

RIBICOFF SAID THE LAWS HAD BEEN CONCEIVED AS A LEVER TO FORCE THE SOVIETS TO ALLOW JEWS TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL AND ELSEWHERE, BUT QUOTE THE LEVER HAS PROVEN ILLUSORY UNQUOTE. THE RESULT, HE SAID, HAS BEEN A DROP IN JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM 35,000 IN 1973 TO AN EXPECTED 13,000 THIS YEAR, AND A SOVIET TURN TO OTHER WESTERN NATIONS FOR 9 BILLION DOLS. IN TRADE WHICH COULD HAVE GONE TO THE UNITED STATES.

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JAVITS SAID QUOTE THE BIG BREAK-THROUGH UNQUOTE IN THE CONGRESSIONAL GROUP'S VISIT WAS THE RUSSIANS' RECOGNITION THAT SOVIET TRADE IS IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES NOT JUST AS A COMMERCIAL VENTURE BUT AS PART OF A BROAD MOVEMENT TOWARD DETENTE, THAT INCLUDES ARMS REDUCTION, AND THE SETTLEMENT OF MIDEAST AND EUROPEAN DISPUTES AND OTHER AREAS OF CONFLICT.

2. YOUR ATTENTION IS ALSO CALLED TO WIRELESS FILE EUR-39
OF JULY 9 SENT TO GENEVA AND MOSCOW AS WELL AS OTHER EUR
POSTS. THIS ITEM GIVES A REPORT ON THE HUMPHREY-
SCOTT PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE USIA/IPS REPORTER COVERING
THE EVENT AND GIVES AN ADDITIONAL VIEW. INGERSOLL

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